



U.S. Embassy - Mexico



2015 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS

The Embassy of the United States of America in Mexico is pleased to announce the United States Institutes offered by the Branch for the Study of the United States of the Department of State pending approval of funding. The Institutes will take place over the course of five weeks beginning in or after the latter part of May 2015. Three institutes for secondary educators will be offered, two with a focus on classroom teachers and the other one with a focus on administrators, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, and ministry of education officials, among others. Each Institute includes a four week academic residency component and a one week integrated study tour.

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. The Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators (**Teachers**) will provide a multinational group of 20 experienced secondary school teachers with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education and culture - past and present. In 2015, there will be three five-week Institutes for teachers with 20 participants each. The focus of the Institute will be on providing content and materials for participants to develop high school level curricula about the United States. To this end, the Institute may be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches, program content will examine the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values, broadly defined. The program will also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society. The four week academic residency will be complemented by a one week study tour. The aim of the study tour is to showcase the cultural, geographic, and ethnic diversity of the United States. Three Institutes for Secondary Educators will be offered, two with a focus on classroom teachers and the third with a focus on administrators, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, and ministry of education officials, among others. Please note that the main focus of the Institutes for teachers is on content and materials about the United States rather than teaching methods and pedagogy. The University of Montana and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will each host one Institute for teachers. Pending approval, the third Institute will be hosted by the California State University, Chico and will take place in early June through mid-July, 2015.

2. The Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators (**Administrators**) will provide a multinational group of 20 experienced administrators (including teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, and others) with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture – past and present. The Institute will include an intellectually rigorous academic residency component, meetings with regional educators and prominent community leaders, guided independent research, visits to topically relevant sites, a one-week study tour, and the completion of a research project. The Institute host will be determined at a later date.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the program's website to obtain general information about the Institutes at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- ❖ Study of the U.S. Institutes are highly competitive. Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have no prior or limited experience in the United States, and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarships, accomplishments and professional duties.
- ❖ Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly motivated and experienced secondary school educators. Ideal candidates are secondary teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum

developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, secondary school administrators, or other related professionals with responsibility for secondary education.

- ❖ Ideal candidates are individuals who are seeking to introduce or enhance aspects of U.S. Studies into their curricula or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies or related fields with little or no prior experience in the United States. While the candidate's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect of the Institute is equally important.
- ❖ Candidates must demonstrate English language fluency: 213 CB (computer-based) TOEFL or 550 Institutional TOEFL score or equivalent levels are required. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to fully and actively participate in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the institute for all participants.
- ❖ Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior and entry level educators are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to mid-career professionals and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.
- ❖ **Mexican citizenship.** Interested parties with dual nationalities (U.S. and Mexican) or those holding resident status in the U.S. **are ineligible.**

PROGRAM BENEFITS:

Financial Provisions: The Department of State will cover all participant costs, including: program administration, international/domestic travel and ground transportation in the United States; and book, cultural, housing, subsistence, mailing, books and incidental allowances.

Accommodations and meals: Participants may be asked to share living quarters during the residency portion (four weeks) of the Institute. Private room accommodations cannot be guaranteed during the residency portion of the program. During the study tour (up to one week), participants may share a hotel room with a participant of the same gender. During the residency, housing will typically be in college or university-owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. Full details will be provided at a later date.

Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of USD\$100,000 with a USD\$25.00 co-pay per medical visit for the duration of the program. **Pre-existing conditions are not covered.** Information on the health benefit program may be found online at: usdos.sevencornes.com

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

All participants are expected to participate fully in the program and must attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program. Candidates should be aware that the institutes are intensive and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The Institute is not a research program

Health Conditions: A physical examination is not required in order to participate in the program. It is important, however, for U.S. host universities to know in advance about any medical conditions that might require special assistance (wheelchair access, limitations on walking, etc.) or chronic conditions, such as diabetes, for which treatment may be necessary during the program. All institute programs include substantial travel, as well as day or weekend trips that may require long walks or time spent standing.

Selection process: Candidates selected by the U.S. Embassy will be nominated to the U.S. Department of State for final selection and approval. Nominated candidates will be notified regarding selection or non-selection in late April 2015.

DEADLINE FOR THREE INSTITUTES: January 5, 2015

If you are interested in applying, please complete and submit the enclosed application form by E-mail to: solicitudesbecas@state.gov. The subject of the E-mail should be your first name, last name and the Institute you are applying to. Example: Margarita González – 2014 SUSI Secondary School Educators for Teachers (or Administrators as appropriate.)